

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mode indicator for use with a transceiver module, the mode indicator comprising:
  - 5 a colored plastic button having an engagement feature configured for attachment to a corresponding transceiver module engagement feature.
- 10 2. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the molded plastic button is shaped to form at least a portion of an input/output receptacle of the transceiver module.
- 15 3. The mode indicator of claim 2, wherein the molded plastic button forms a common wall between two adjacent input/output receptacles.
- 20 4. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button engagement feature comprises a recessed area within the button and the transceiver module engagement feature comprises a projection extending from the module, wherein the recessed area of the button is shaped to receive the projection of the module.
- 25 5. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button engagement feature comprises a projection extending from the button and the transceiver module engagement feature comprises a recessed area within the module, wherein the recessed area of the module is shaped to receive the projection of the button.
- 30 6. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button forms at least a portion of an input/output receptacle of the transceiver module.
7. The mode indicator of claim 1, wherein the button is secured to the transceiver module by press fit or by an adhesive.
8. A transceiver module comprising:

a housing having an engagement feature adjacent a front face of the housing;

a colored mode indicator attached to the engagement feature of the housing.

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9. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the colored mode indicator is visible from a top and front of the transceiver module.

10. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the transceiver module is for insertion within a cage having a cage latch that retains the transceiver module in the cage, the transceiver module further comprising:

a release mechanism coupled to the housing to release the transceiver module from the cage;

15 wherein the colored mode indicator is separate from the release mechanism.

11. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the engagement feature adjacent the front face of the housing is a projection extending toward the front face, and wherein the projection is received in a recessed portion of the colored mode indicator.

12. The transceiver module of claim 8, wherein the engagement feature adjacent the front face of the housing is a recessed portion, and wherein the recessed portion receives a projection extending from the colored mode indicator.

13. The transceiver of claim 8, further comprising an input/output receptacle in the housing, wherein the colored mode indicator forms at least a portion of the input/output receptacle.

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14. The transceiver of claim 13, further comprising two adjacent input/output receptacles in the housing, wherein the colored mode indicator forms a common wall between the adjacent input/output receptacles.
- 5 15. The transceiver of claim 8, wherein the housing formed of a metal and the colored mode indicator is formed of a plastic material.
16. The transceiver of claim 8, wherein the colored mode indicator is secured to the housing by press fit.
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17. The transceiver of claim 8, wherein the colored mode indicator is secured to the housing by an adhesive.
18. A data transmission system comprising:
- 15 a printed circuit board;
- a cage structure fixed to the printed circuit board, the cage structure having an opening and a latch adjacent the opening,;
- a transceiver module pluggable into the opening of the cage structure,
- 20 wherein the transceiver module is retained within the cage by the latch and wherein the transceiver module is removable from the cage by deflecting the latch with a release mechanism; and
- a colored mode indicator attached to the transceiver module, wherein the colored mode indicator is separate from the release mechanism.
- 25 19. The data transmission system of claim 18, further comprising an input/output receptacle in the transceiver module, wherein the colored mode indicator forms at least a portion of the input/output receptacle.
20. The data transmission system of claim 18, wherein the transceiver
- 30 module has a housing formed of a metal and the colored mode indicator is formed of a plastic material and attached to the housing.